

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PN

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT GONZALEZ SPEAKS ON TREATY AND ON
SOCIALISM'S PROSPECTS IN PANAMA

SUMMARY: IN CLOSING SPEECH OF POLITICAL "CONSCIOUSNESS
RAISING" SEMINAR FOR MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS, VICE
PRESIDENT ASSERTED THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF NEW CANAL TREATY IS
PANAMA'S PRIORITY GOAL, AND SPECIFIED TREATY DURATION IS
PRIME ISSUE WITHIN THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE ALSO DECLARED THAT
PANAMA, BECAUSE OF ITS ROLE AS A TRANSIT CORRIDOR, WILL
NEVER BECOME A SOCIALIST COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

1. AUGUST 3 "ESTRELLA" FRONT-PAGED A REPORT OF VICE
PRESIDENT GERARDO GONZALEZ' SPEECH ON JULY 30 TO POLITICAL
CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING (CAPACITACION POLITICA) SEMINAR FOR
EDUCATION MINISTRY OFFICIALS. ARTICLE HEADLINES REPEATED
WHAT HAS BECOME OFFICIAL GOP DRUM-BEAT REFRAIN: THAT
DURATION ISSUE IS THE HEART OF TREATY NEGOTIATING PROGRESS
FOR PANAMA. DURING THE TREATY LIFETIME, THE VP CONTINUED,
PANAMA WILL GRADUALLY ELIMINATE COLONIAL TRACES, AND,
A NEW TREATY ACHIEVED, PANAMA WILL BE ABLE TO
EXPAND CANAL-RELATED ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND DYNAMIZE
HER ECONOMY'S INFRASTRUCTURE. THIS MODERNIZATION WILL
BENEFIT ALL PANAMANIAN, GONZALEZ POINTEDLY NOTED.

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2. SPEAKING ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, GONZALEZ DECLARED

THAT PANAMA WILL NEVER BECOME A SOCIALIST COUNTRY.
ITS HISTORIC, AND CURRENT, SITUATION AS A POINT OF
TRANSIT, AND THE CONSEQUENT IMPLICATIONS FOR ITS
COMMERCE WOULD INHIBIT A SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION OF THE
MEANS OF PRODUCTIONS.

3. GONZALEZ DELIVERED HIS ADDRESS AT THE CLOSING
SESSION OF THE EDUCATION MINISTRY SEMINAR BEFORE AUDIENCE
WHICH INCLUDED THE HIERARCHY OF THE MINISTRY, AND
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, THE COMPTROLLER'S
OFFICE, THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY AND OTHER
GOP AGENCIES. HIS ADDRESS WAS ALSO REPORTED IN JULY 3
"CRITICA" BUT ON INSIDE PAGES.
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